DECLASSIFIED

R

Department of State

TELEGRAM

DECLASSIFIED

93

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

AN: D770129-0031

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BUENOS 02663 131606Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 MCT-01 SS-15 NSC-05
SY-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /062 W
------------------132029Z 056117 /47
R 131429Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2663

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS SHUM AR
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF RUDOLFO WALSH

REF: (A) STATE 75066, (B) STATE 77323, (C) BUENOS AIRES 2580

1. A COPY OF THE "OPEN LETTER" FROM RODOLFO WALSH TO THE ARGENTINE JUNTA ARRIVED IN EMBASSY APRIL 11. IT WAS DISPATCHED THROUGH THE REGULAR POSTAL SYSTEM, POSTMARKED APRIL 5, ADDRESSED TO PATRICIA DERIAN AND INCLUDED A COVER LETTER TO MS DERIAN WRITTEN BY THE WALSH FAMILY FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF WALSH ON MARCH 25. EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE COPY OF OPEN LETTER EARLIER AS REPORTED REFTEL A, NOR HAD ONE BEEN RECEIVED BY UPI AS OF APRIL 11 (REFTEL B). WALSH'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS BUT NO NEW INFORMATION ON HIS WHEREABOUTS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY COME TO L[illegible]

2. THE W[illegible] FAMILY LETTER IS STRIDENT AND ACCUSATIVE. ACCORDING TO IT, WALSH DISTRIBUTED HIS "OPEN LETTER" TO THE JUNTA ON MARCH 24 "WITHOUT HOPE OF BEING HEARD BUT SURE OF BEING PERSECUTED" AND WAS KIDNAPPED MARCH 25. IT SAYS HIS HOME IN SAN VICENTE HAS BOMBED AND HIS DIARIES AND CHAPTERS OF HIS MEMOIRES WERE MISSING. THE LETTER DESCRIBES WALSH'S WORLD PRESTIGE AS A POLITICAL AND LITERARY WRITER AND RELATES HIS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A PUBLISHER FOR HIS INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON CLANDESTINE SHOOTINGS IN 1956
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BUENOS 02663 131606Z

AND LABOR EXPLOITATION IN 1968. (YEARS AGO WALSH PUBLISHED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 4/20/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

DECLASSIFIED

"OPERATION MASSACRE," A BOOK ON THE CRUSHING OF THE 1956 PERONIST UPRISING.)

3. WALSH'S FIVE-PAGE SINGLE-SPACED LETTER TO THE JUNTA SPEAKS OF 15,000 DISAPPEARANCE CASES; 10,000 DETAINEES; 4,000 DEAD; CRIMES COMMITTED BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES; AND ECONOMIC IMPOVERISHMENT OF THE ARGENTINE WORKERS. HE IMPLICATES THE CIA WHICH HE SAYS WILL BE REVEALED AS PARTICIPATING IN INTERNAL SECURITY CRIMES BY PROVIDING TRAINING GRANTS FUNNELED THROUGH AID TO CHIEFS OF THE ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE AND HELPING CREATE ALONG WITH THE NAVY AND GENERAL MENENDEZ THE RIGHT-WING TERRORIST GROUP WHICH REPLACED THE TRIPLE A. THE EMBASSY IS POUCHING A COPY OF THE LETTER TO DEPARTMENT AND WILL FURTHER EVALUATE WALSH'S ACCUSATIONS. LOCAL PRESS HAS COMMENTED EDITORIALLY THAT HIS ABDUCTION MAY HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS (REFTEL C).

4. WALSH IS KNOWN AS FERVENT LEFT-WING PERONIST IDEOLOGUE. HE HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS ON POLITICAL AND LABOR SUBJECTS IN THE PAST BUT HAD APPARENTLY BEEN INACTIVE AS A WRITER FOR SOME TIME UNTIL HIS LETTER TO THE JUNTA. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT JUAN DE ONIS IS NOT IN ARGENTINA AT PRESENT, BUT APPARENTLY SPOKE TO MR. SERIAN ABOUT THIS CASE BEFORE SHE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON. HILL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DECLASSIFIED